Chapter IV

PIONEER LIFE

Wasatch settlers brought to the pioneer struggle very little in the way of material resources. An ox or two, a wagonload of goods, and usually a gun were the items constituting their physical possessions. There were no homes to come to with rugs, furniture, beds, and lights. Nor were there roads, or schools, or church buildings, stores, or a thousand and one other things to which we are accustomed. These had to be built and at the same time crops had to be raised and shelter provided.

Shelter is perhaps a better word than home to describe the first hurried building by a people who had to spend most of their time plowing the land and putting in a crop. A wikiup made of brush, covered with wheat-grass and dirt, or a dugout in a hill—whichever was most expedient—was the common solution.[1]

The food was also appropriate to their situation. Elizabeth Fillmore tells how John and Mary Ann Faucett moved to Midway when there were only five families there: "They lived in a dugout the first year and subsisted on roots, large squirrels, and boiled wheat."[2]

As soon as the first crops were planted, a number of log cabins rose to replace the dugouts and wikiups. They were to last until the sawmills were built to provide the lumber for frame houses and furniture. These log cabins were chinked with mud and roofed with long grass and dirt. The entire family crowded into the single room with a fireplace in one end and the beds in the other. The beds were built into the wall by running

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[1]John Crook, "History of Wasatch County," *op. cit.*, p. 6.

[2]E. Z. Fillmore, "Biography of John and Mary Faucett," MSS, (Daughters of Utah Pioneers Historical Collection, Heber City, 1951). "Under Wasatch Skies" 33

